

1 **CLAIMS**

2 What is claimed is:

3       1. A method for installing a device driver and an associated peripheral software  
4 on a client computer over a network, said method comprising:

5               invoking said device driver for a peripheral administrated by a remote  
6 computer over said network; and

7               installing said associated peripheral software of said peripheral in response to  
8 an initialization of said device driver by an operating system of said client computer.

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10       2. The method for installing a device driver and an associated peripheral  
11 software according to claim 1, further comprising:

12               reading an associated description file of said peripheral in response to said  
13 initialization of said device driver, said associated description file including a name of said  
14 associated peripheral software and an installation procedure; and

15               installing said associated peripheral software according to said installation  
16 procedure on said client computer.

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18       3. The method for installing a device driver and an associated peripheral  
19 software according to claim 1, wherein said initialization comprises an operating system call  
20 for said device driver to initialize itself.

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22       4. The method for installing a device driver and an associated peripheral  
23 software according to claim 2, further comprising:

24               modifying said device driver to read said associated description file.

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26       5. The method for installing a device driver and an associated peripheral  
27 software according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral is a printer.

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1       6.    The method for installing a device driver and an associated peripheral  
2 software according to claim 1, further comprising:

3               initiating installation of said peripheral by activating an icon representing said  
4 peripheral.

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6       7.    The method for installing a device driver and an associated peripheral  
7 software according to claim 1, further comprising:

8               initiating installation of said peripheral by selecting a UNC path name  
9 configured to represent said peripheral.

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11       8.    A method for installing a device driver and an associated peripheral software  
12 on a client computer over a network, comprising:

13               providing at least one peripheral installed on a remote computer, said device  
14 driver being for said at least one peripheral, and said associated peripheral software being for  
15 said at least one peripheral;

16               reading a description file associated with said at least one peripheral in  
17 response to an initialization of said device driver during an installation of said device driver  
18 on said client computer; and

19               installing said peripheral software on said client computer in response to an  
20 installation procedure of said peripheral software included in said description file.

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22       9.    The method for installing a device driver and an associated peripheral  
23 software according to claim 8, wherein said initialization comprises an operating system call  
24 for said device driver to initialize itself.

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26       10.   The method for installing a device driver and an associated peripheral  
27 software according to claim 9, further comprising:

28               modifying said device driver to read said description file.

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30       11.   The method for installing a device driver and an associated peripheral  
31 software according to claim 10, wherein said at least one peripheral is a printer.

1           12. The method for installing a device driver and an associated peripheral  
2 software according to claim 11, further comprising:

3                 initiating installation of said at least one peripheral by activating an icon  
4 representing said at least one peripheral.

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6           13. A system for remote installation of a device driver and an associated  
7 peripheral software, comprising:

8                 at least one processor of a client computer;

9                 a memory coupled to said at least one processor of said client computer;

10                 at least one peripheral with said device driver and said associated peripheral  
11 software installed on a remote computer, wherein said device driver and said associated  
12 peripheral software is retrieved from said remote computer and stored in said memory, said  
13 device driver being configured to be executed by said at least one processor.

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15           14. The system for remote installation of a device driver and an associated  
16 peripheral software according to claim 13, wherein:

17                 said at least one processor is further configured to read a description file in  
18 response to an initialization of said device driver during an installation of said device driver  
19 on said client computer.

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21           15. The system for remote installation of a device driver and an associate  
22 peripheral software according to claim 14, wherein said initialization is configured to invoke  
23 an initialization entry point configured to point to said description file.

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25           16. The system for remote installation of a device driver and an associate  
26 peripheral software according to claim 14, wherein said at least one processor is further  
27 configured to install said associated peripheral software according to an installation  
28 procedure included in said description file.

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1        17. The system for remote installation of a device driver and an associate  
2 peripheral software according to claim 16, wherein said initialization comprises an operating  
3 system call for said device driver to initialize itself.

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5        18. The system for remote installation of a device driver and an associate  
6 peripheral software according to claim 17, wherein said peripheral is a printer.

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8        19. The system for remote installation of a device driver and an associate  
9 peripheral software according to claim 18, wherein said at least one processor is further  
10 configured to install said device driver and said associated peripheral software in response to  
11 an activation of an icon of said at least one peripheral.

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13        20. The system for remote installation of a device driver and an associate  
14 peripheral software according to claim 17, wherein said at least one processor is further  
15 configured to install said device driver and said associated peripheral software in response to  
16 a selection of a UNC path name representing said at least one peripheral.

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